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3) Prime Minister's Official Residence (Kantei)

Prime Minister's schedule, October 12

NIKKEI (Page 2) (Full)
October 14, 2009

Morning
Stayed at his private residence.

17:59
Had dinner with the Emperor and Empress at the Imperial Palace.
Wife, Miyuki, was also present.

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21:03
Arrived at his private residence.

Prime Minister's schedule, October 13

NIKKEI (Page 2) (Full)
October 14, 2009

10:03
Attended a cabinet meeting at the Kantei. Later met Defense Minister Kitazawa. Chief Cabinet Secretary Hirano was also present.

11:25
Met Ambassador to Vietnam Sakaba.

13:54
Met Upper House member Shokichi Kina.

14:26
Met Election Campaign Committee Chair Ishii, followed by the New Party Daichi representative Suzuki.

16:21
Met Japanese Olympic Committee President Tsunekazu Takeda and Upper House member Masamitsu Oishi.

18:08
Met Diet Affairs Committee Chairman Yamaoka, Lower House standing committee chairmen, and others at his official residential quarters.

20:20
Arrived at his private residence.

AMBASSADOR ROOS

4) Ambassador Roos says during interview "current agreement is the best" for Futenma relocation

ASAHI (Page 4) (Full)
October 14, 2009

Yoichi Kato, editorial staff member

On Oct. 13 U.S. Ambassador to Japan John Roos gave his first interview to the Asahi Shimbun after taking up his post. Discussing the relocation of the U.S. forces' Futenma Air Station in Okinawa, he said: "The Obama administration has considered all the other options and believes that the current agreement is the best option," indicating that the U.S. government has no intention to revise or change the plan.

The Ambassador showed understanding for the Hatoyama administration's examination of the process by which the agreement was reached. However, he also said: "We hope and expect that after

the examination the administration will be satisfied with this agreement."

Regarding the refueling mission in the Indian Ocean, which Defense Minister Toshimi Kitazawa said will be withdrawn temporarily in January 2010, Roos said: "Not only the United States, but the

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members of the alliance of the willing also appreciate the mission and hope that it will continue." However, he also pointed out that "there are many ways to contribute to the situation in Afghanistan and Pakistan." He added, "The important thing is for Japan to continue to contribute in a meaningful way and expand its contribution if possible," indicating a hope for an expanded contribution.

Gist of the interview

Following is the gist of the interview with Ambassador Roos:

Kato: Why were you appointed ambassador?

Roos: I think President Obama, who knows me well, made that decision after considering who would be best for the United States at the present stage in Japan-U.S. relations. If I may borrow the President's words, I have a "close relationship" (with the President) based on trust. I will advise the President when he asks for my advice or when I think it's necessary.

Kato: There was criticism in the U.S. that you were selected because you raised substantial funds for the presidential campaign and that you had no diplomatic experience.

Roos: This is probably because I come from Silicon Valley in California, have experience in the business sector, and have a different background (from past ambassadors).

I will work with every ounce of my being during my tenure, and make sure that when I leave, relations between the two countries, not only in the area of security, but also in a wide range of other areas, will have been strengthened.

Kato: What is your approach to the Futenma issue?

Roos: The Obama administration has considered all the options and believes that the current agreement is the best option. We expect that after the Hatoyama administration examines the negotiation process, it will be satisfied with this agreement.

Kato: How about the refueling mission in the Indian Ocean?

Roos: Not only the United States, but many members of the alliance of the willing also hope that the mission will continue. However, the important thing is that Japan continues to contribute in a meaningful way. There are many ways to do so.

Kato: What is the possibility of the President's visiting Hiroshima?

Roos: That is something for the President to decide. I visited Hiroshima (last week) and I was deeply moved. The trip was also for the purpose of conveying my thoughts to the President.

5) U.S. Ambassador expresses hopes for relocation of Futenma Air Station as planned

YOMIURI (Page 1) (Full)
October 14, 2009

U.S. Ambassador to Japan John Roos gave an interview to the Yomiuri

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Shimbun at his official residence in Tokyo on Oct. 13. Referring to the planned relocation of the U.S. Marine Corps' Futenma Air Station

in Okinawa, the Ambassador expressed strong expectations for the relocation to be realized as planned, saying, "I am optimistic that the roadmap (to relocate the air station to Nago in the prefecture) will move forward in the end." Some in the Hatoyama administration are calling for moving the Futenma Air Station out of Okinawa. The Ambassador expressed a view dismissive of making major changes to the plan by describing the roadmap as something agreed upon as the next stage in the strategic alliance.

Japan and the United States agreed on the roadmap in May 2006 during the former Bush administration. Ambassador Roos explained that the U.S. administration examined the roadmap after Obama took office and has reaffirmed its critical importance. Showing understanding of expected calls for reexamining the roadmap in the wake of the change of administration in Japan, the Ambassador said: "We have to give the Democratic Party of Japan time. It is not fair to set a deadline tied to a visit to Japan by the President (next month)."

The Ambassador also expressed hopes for the continuation of the Maritime Self-Defense Force's refueling mission in the Indian Ocean beyond its expiry next January, saying: "I understand that a final conclusion has yet to be reached. Japan's refueling mission is highly appreciated." He also commented, "The United States and many other countries are hoping that Japan will step up its contributions (to Afghanistan)."

During the Japan-China-ROK summit on Oct. 10, Prime Minister Hatoyama said Japan has been too dependent on the United States. The Ambassador expressed displeasure about this statement, saying, "The expression (used to describe the Japan-U.S. relationship) was not appropriate." At the same time, the Ambassador said, "The Prime Minister's statement describing (Japan and the United States) as equal partners is correct."

Asked if there was any chance for President Barack Obama to visit Hiroshima, the city that suffered an atomic bombing, the Ambassador said: "It is a matter for the President to decide. I have visited there and I was deeply moved. I want to convey my experience to the President."

6) Interview with U.S. Ambassador to Japan; underlines importance of bilateral alliance, while expressing concern about Japan drifting away from U.S.

YOMIURI (Page 6) (Full)
October 14, 2009

Takashi Sadahiro, International Department

On Oct. 13 U.S. Ambassador to Japan John Roos gave an interview to the Yomiuri Shimbun in which he emphasized good relations between Japan and the United States, saying: "The relationship between the two countries is firmer than ever before. It will blossom further in the future." But the Ambassador stopped short of presenting any concrete measures to close the schism in Japan-U.S. relations that since the change of administration in Japan has emerged over the planned realignment of U.S. forces in Japan and contributions to Afghanistan. The Ambassador's remarks advocating the importance of the bilateral alliance disclosed the U.S. side's alarm with President Barack Obama's visit to Japan only one month away.

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In the interview, Ambassador Roos reiterated the Obama administration's official view that the Japan-U.S. alliance is the cornerstone of strategic and economic relations in Asia. He also reacted calmly to the Hatoyama administration's policy of attaching importance to Asia, saying, "The Japan-U.S. relationship is not a zero-sum game (in which it grows weaker if another relationship becomes stronger)." He presented a sort of idealistic theory -- if not only Japan but also the United States strengthens its relations with Asian countries, including China, the Japan-U.S. alliance will become firmer.

During his trip to China, Prime Minister Hatoyama said that Japan has been too dependent on the United States. Ambassador Roos frankly

described Hatoyama's words as inappropriate. He could not accept the idea of Japan distancing itself from the United States by shifting the focus of its diplomacy to Asia.

On the afternoon of Oct. 13, ahead of the interview, the Ambassador called on National Public Safety Commission Chairman Hiroshi Nakai. Referring to the abduction issue during the interview, the Ambassador said: "It is not only a political issue but also an ethical issue. We would like to cooperate with Japan in order to achieve a satisfactory result." This offered a glimpse of the U.S. intention to work closely with Japan in addressing issues critical to it with the aim of preventing the Japan-U.S. alliance from becoming hollow.

Gist of the interview with Ambassador Roos

-- Is there any chance President Barack Obama will visit Hiroshima?

Ambassador Roos: Whether or not to visit Hiroshima (during his visit to Japan in November) is a matter for President Obama to decide personally. I have visited Hiroshima and I was deeply moved. I want to convey my personal experience to the President.

-- What is your assessment of the current Japan-U.S. relationship?

Roos: The President told me that (the Japan-U.S. relationship) is the cornerstone of the United States' strategic and economic relations in Asia. The Japan-U.S. relationship is firmer than ever before. It will continue to flourish in the future.

-- Prime Minister Hatoyama said that Japan has been too dependent on the United States. What do you think of his statement?

Roos: Bilateral relations are not a zero-sum game. I don't think (Japan has been too dependent on the United States) is a proper expression. I think the Prime Minister's statement that Japan and the United States are equal partners is correct and that they should remain equal partners in the future as well.

-- Is there any prospect for the resolution of the issue of relocating the U.S. Marine Corps' Futenma Air Station?

Roos: Japan and the United States have agreed on a roadmap (to relocate the Futenma Air Station to Nago in Okinawa Prefecture) as the next stage in the strategic alliance. The roadmap is designed to strengthen the bilateral alliance. It was examined at the start of the Obama administration and its critical importance has been reaffirmed. It is being studied by the new administration in Japan

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as well. We should give the Democratic Party of Japan time to reach its own conclusion. But I am optimistic that the roadmap will move forward in the end. It is not fair to set a "deadline (for an agreement)" to coincide with the President's visit to Japan. I don't think it is appropriate for the United States to set an artificial deadline for Japan.

-- Japan might decide to terminate the refueling mission in the Indian Ocean. How would such a decision affect Japan-U.S. relations?

Roos: I understand that a final decision (on the refueling mission) has not been reached. It is not a matter of Japan-U.S. relations but a matter of all countries providing support and of the international community. The war against terrorism is critical for all of us. Japan's refueling mission is highly appreciated. The United States and many other countries are hoping Japan will increase its contributions (to Afghanistan). Foreign Minister Okada's proposal (of civilian support) could be an important contribution.

-- What is your view of the issue of abductions by North Korea?

Roos: It is not only a political issue but an ethical issue as well. We would like to cooperate with Japan to achieve a satisfactory result.

7) State Minister for Abduction Issue Nakai asks for U.S. cooperation

NIKKEI (Page 2) (Full)
October 14, 2009

State Minister for Abduction Issue Hiroshi Nakai on October 13 met with U.S. Ambassador to Japan Roos for about 40 minutes at the Cabinet Office. During the meeting Nakai asked for U.S. cooperation on the issue of the abduction of Japanese nationals by North Korea. Emerging from the meeting Roos told reporters: "We talked about Japan and the U.S. closely working together toward the settlement of the abduction issue. We discussed how important this issue is and that we plan to continue to cooperate on it."

REFUELING MISSION

8) Government to withdraw MSDF from Indian Ocean

SANKEI (Page 1) (Excerpts)
October 14, 2009

The government has decided to withdraw Maritime Self-Defense Force personnel engaged in the refueling mission in the Indian Ocean when the new antiterrorism special measures law expires on Jan. 15. Speaking before reporters last evening, Prime Minister Yukio Hatoyama indicated that the government would not extend the law. He said:

"We would like to make a judgment based on what the mission has meant for the Afghan government. The Afghan government does not have strong feelings about Japan's refueling mission."

Defense Minister Toshimi Kitazawa also said in a press conference yesterday: "We will withdraw (the mission) quietly in accordance

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with the law, which is to expire in January."

9) Ministers support, LDP criticizes FM Okada's statement on withdrawing MSDF refueling mission

YOMIURI (Page 4) (Full)
October 14, 2009

Foreign Minister Katsuya Okada stated in Pakistan on Oct. 12 that a bill to extend the refueling mission of the Maritime Self-Defense Force (MSDF) after the expiration of its authorization in January will not be submitted to the extraordinary Diet session. Opinions in support of this statement have been voiced in the government.

Prime Minister Yukio Hatoyama told reporters on the evening of Oct. 13 that "the Afghan government does not necessarily have a strong preference for the refueling mission," and said, "We would like to figure out what is most expected of Japan," including vocational training for former soldiers under the old Taliban regime. With regard to contribution in terms of personnel under a poor security situation, Hatoyama stressed that "there will be some ways to do command and control work, even for just a small number of people."

At a news conference held after the cabinet meeting, Chief Cabinet Secretary Hirofumi Hirano stated: "The Foreign Minister's statement carries a lot of weight. We would like to make the final decision giving due respect to this." Defense Minister Toshimi Kitazawa also said: "The law expires in January 2010. The MSDF will be withdrawn without any fuss." Social Democratic Party leader Mizuho Fukushima (consumer affairs minister) expressed her support for the foreign minister's position as well. She said: "There are many things Japan can do in terms of civilian aid."

Meanwhile, Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) Secretary General Tadamori Oshima stated at a news conference on Oct. 13: "The refueling mission in the Indian Ocean is meant (for Japan) to fulfill its due share of responsibility in the international war against terrorism. If the Democratic Party of Japan does not want to continue the

mission, we are determined to submit counterproposals." However, New Komeito has indicated that it will not go along with the LDP's counterproposals because "in principle, the government is responsible (for legislation)." (Chief Representative Natsuo Yamaguchi). The opposition parties disagree on this issue.

10) MSDF chief of staff takes view that countries receiving fuel from Japan understand government's policy of not extending refueling operations

MAINICHI (Page 2) (Full)
October 14, 2009

At a regular press conference yesterday, Maritime Self-Defense Force (MSDF) Chief of Staff Keiji Akahoshi clarified that he held talks early this month on the MSDF's refueling mission in the Indian Ocean, which will expire next January, with top Navy officials from eight countries, including the United States, to which Japan has supplied fuel. Akahoshi took the view that he was able to obtain a certain level of understanding toward the government's policy of not simply extending the mission.

The eight countries represented at the talks were the United States, Pakistan, France, Germany, Canada, Britain, New Zealand, and

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Denmark.

FUTENMA RELOCATION

11) U.S. refuses Japan's proposal on integrating of Futenma functions into Kadena base in bureau director-level talks

YOMIURI (Page 2) (Slightly abridged)
October 14, 2009

In talks held on Oct. 5 in Washington by Japanese and U.S. bureau director-level officials in charge of foreign and defense affairs, the Japanese side sounded the U.S. out on a proposal to integrate U.S. Marine Corps' Futenma Air Station (Ginowan City, Okinawa Prefecture) into the Air Force's Kadena Air Base (Nago City). Japan and the U.S. have already agreed to relocate the Futenma facility to the coastal area of Camp Schwab. The U.S. side flatly rejected Japan's proposal in the talks, with one official remarking, "That is out of the question."

Several informed sources said yesterday that under Japan's proposal, the U.S. Air Force would reduce the number of fighters stationed at Kadena base and instead relocate the helicopter functions of Futenma base to Kadena.

12) Okinawa governor calls for moving Futenma relocation site offshore

NIKKEI (Top play) (Excerpts)
October 14, 2009

Okinawa Governor Hirokazu Nakaima yesterday submitted to the Okinawa Defense Bureau a position paper on the assessment of the environmental impact of the existing plan to transfer the U.S. Marine Corps' Futenma air Station (in Ginowan City, Okinawa Prefecture) to the coastal area of Camp Schwab in Nago City. In the paper, he called for moving the construction site as far offshore as possible. The government will start the coordination process to determine the construction site, bearing in mind U.S. President Barack Obama's upcoming visit to Japan set for Nov. 12 and based on the governor's opinion. In the Okinawa prefectural assembly, a number of members are still calling for moving the heliport functions of the Futenma Air Station outside Okinawa. The U.S. government remains cautious about revising the existing relocation plan. Attention will be focused on what moves the U.S. will make.

The governor's position paper notes that "the environmental impact of the existing plan is considered to be extremely serious." The paper also says: "Moving the facility outside the prefecture would be the best choice, but (the Okinawa government) had to accept the

transfer of the facility within the prefecture in order to remove the danger of the Futenma facility." The paper then urges "the government to present its policy and specific plans quickly." If the government accepts Nakaima's call for moving the site offshore, he is expected to agree to the transfer of the Futenma facilities to Camp Schwab.

A major basis for judgment for the government of Prime Minister Yukio Hatoyama is the response by the U.S. Obama government. The U.S. side has shown a negative view about revising the plan of relocating the Futenma facility to the coastal area of Camp Schwab. But a source connected to Japan-U.S. relations takes this view: "If

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the existing plan is altered to move the construction site offshore to some extent, there is a possibility that the U.S. might accept the plan in the end."

U.S. Secretary of Defense Robert Gates will be visiting Japan next week, and President Obama is scheduled to visit Japan next month. Bearing these events in mind, the Hatoyama government intends to make a final decision on the site after it carefully watches the U.S. side's response. If the U.S. government indicates a willingness to accept the governor's request for moving the site offshore, a growing number of people might begin to accept the transfer of the facilities within the prefecture.

OPINION POLLS

13) Poll: Hatoyama cabinet's support rate at 65%

ASAHI (Page 1) (Abridged)
October 14, 2009

The rate of public support for Prime Minister Hatoyama and his cabinet was 65% in a telephone-based nationwide public opinion survey conducted by the Asahi Shimbun on Oct. 11-12. The cabinet support rate remains high, though it edged down from the 71% rating from the last survey conducted right after its inauguration. The nonsupport rate for the Hatoyama cabinet was 16% (14% in the last survey).

It has now been nearly one month since the Hatoyama cabinet made its debut. In the survey, respondents were asked about the Hatoyama cabinet's performance up to now. In response to this question, a total of 75% gave affirmative answers, broken down into 12% saying they "appreciate very much" and 63% saying they "appreciate to a certain extent." Meanwhile, those who "don't appreciate very much" accounted for 18%, with the proportion of those who "don't appreciate at all" reaching 4%. Among those who support the ruling Democratic Party of Japan (DPJ), 91% gave affirmative ratings for the Hatoyama cabinet's job performance. Even among those who support the now-opposition Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), 50% were affirmative. It may safely be said that the Hatoyama cabinet has gotten off to a smooth start with the public's positive ratings for its policy switchovers from the previous LDP-led government.

Respondents were also asked about the Hatoyama cabinet's specific policies. The Hatoyama cabinet is now in the process of reviewing the supplementary budget, which was compiled by the previous administration, in order to suspend spending on budgeted projects totaling over 2.5 trillion yen. Asked about this, 23% answered that they "appreciate very much," with 50% saying they "appreciate somewhat." Meanwhile, "don't appreciate very much" accounted for 22%, with "don't appreciate at all" at 4%. As seen from these figures, affirmative answers markedly outnumbered negative ones.

Hatoyama has vowed in the international community to attain a reduction of 25% in Japan's greenhouse gas emissions (from 1990 levels) by 2020 in an effort to prevent global warming. In the survey, respondents were asked if they supported this international commitment. To this question, 72% answered "yes," with 21% saying "no." Respondents were further asked if they would be content if the emissions reduction caused them to shoulder a heavier burden on their livelihoods or affect business activity. To this question, "yes" accounted for 40%, with "no" at 51%.

POLITICS

14) Fiscal 2010 budget requests likely to be largest ever

YOMIURI (Page 1) (Excerpt)
October 14, 2009

A strong possibility has emerged that fiscal 2010 general-account budget requests to be submitted by each government agency on October 15 will reach around 95 trillion yen. The figure is much larger than the fiscal 2004 budget of 89.1494 trillion yen, and the largest-ever size at the stage of submitting requests. Prime Minister Hatoyama has asked each government agency to set the amounts of budget requests for existing policy measures below the level of the fiscal 2009 initial budget. However, the review of budget requests is proceeding with difficulty. The amount of requests could increase by nearly 7 trillion yen from the fiscal 2009 initial budget due to the implementation of new programs, such as the introduction of a child-care allowance system.

DEFENSE & SECURITY

15) Defense ministry reform plan rendered null and void due to change in government

ASAHI (Page 4) (Full)
October 14, 2009

The Defense Ministry Reform Headquarters Council, chaired by Defense Minister Toshimi Kitazawa, on October 13 decided to withdraw a Defense Ministry reform plan, which the previous Liberal Democratic Party administration had been considering following a series of scandals such as a bribery case involving former vice defense minister Takemasa Moriya. The Council intends to discuss the direction of the organizational reform from the beginning in conjunction with the envisaged overall review of the role of defense following the change in government.

Defense Parliamentary Secretary Daizo Kusuda told reporters after the meeting: "The effects and objective of reforming the ministry have yet to be discussed thoroughly. We must start off by identifying problems once again." The Council, which consists of the defense minister and the chiefs of the staff of the Ground, Maritime, and Air Self Defense Forces, will also be disbanded. The defense minister, the senior vice defense minister, and the defense parliamentary secretaries will lead future discussions on reforming the ministry.

16) Japan, India to discuss antipiracy measures

YOMIURI (Page 4) (Full)
October 14, 2009

Japan-India talks on maritime security between foreign and defense officials at the director general level will be held today in New Delhi. The two countries' working-level officials will begin exchanging views mainly on antipiracy measures in the Indian Ocean, a strategic location for maritime traffic. A Japan-India joint declaration on bilateral security cooperation formulated when Indian Prime Minister Singh visited Japan last October stipulated that the two countries will promote cooperation between maritime security

authorities from Japan's Maritime Self-Defense Force and the Indian Navy.

FOREIGN RELATIONS

17) Foreign minister visits Indonesia: Agreement reached on promotion of concept of East Asian Community

NIKKEI (Page 2) (Full)
October 14, 2009

Yasuji Nozawa, Jakarta

Foreign Minister Katsuya Okada on October 13 visited Indonesia and met with President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono and Foreign Minister Noer Hassan Wirajuda separately. Both countries agreed to cooperate for the promotion of the concept of an East Asian Community advocated by Prime Minister Yukio Hatoyama.

Emerging from the meeting (with Hassan), Okada underscored at a press conference, "Indonesia will be a key partner for Japan as we press ahead with the East Asian Community concept." Hassan stated, "The envisaged community should be balanced and comprehensive." Okada and Yudhoyono during their meeting vowed that both countries will back up the democratization of Myanmar (Burma).

18) Russia hopes Foreign Minister Okada will visit Moscow

NIKKEI (Page 2) (Full)
October 14, 2009

House of Councillors President Satsuki Eda, now visiting Russia, held a press conference on Oct. 13 in Moscow. During the press briefing, he revealed that Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov expressed hope that Foreign Minister Katsuya Okada will visit Russia before the end of the year or early next year. Eda's visit to Russia was the first visit in 10 years by a Japanese Upper House president.

ROOS